Iran Nuclear Negotiations Act: Key Provisions

Why Congress Must Act

- Secretary of State John Kerry testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on April 8, 2014 that the administration is "obligated under the law" to come back to Congress for any relief of statutorily imposed sanctions on Iran and any agreement with Iran "will have to pass muster with Congress."
- Congressional review and enforcement of any final nuclear agreement with Iran is critical to ensuring full oversight of any such agreement as well as determining whether the agreement is in the national security interests of the United States.

Congressional Review—Having a Full and Transparent Debate

- The bill requires the president to submit any comprehensive nuclear agreement with Iran to Congress within three days after concluding such an agreement.
- Congress then has 15 days to review the agreement and hold hearings on the matter. After the 15-day review
 period, Congress has another 15 days to introduce a Joint Resolution of Disapproval, which would have
 simple, expedited consideration on the floor of the House and the Senate, allowing an open, transparent
 debate in both chambers.
- If the president fails to submit any final agreement to Congress or a joint resolution of disapproval is enacted into law, any sanctions that had been temporarily lifted would be re-imposed.

Compliance—Making Sure Iran Doesn't Cheat

- The bill would require the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), within 10 days of the intelligence community receiving evidence that Iran is not living up to any its obligations under its nuclear agreements or is refusing to cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to assess the evidence and determine whether it is credible and accurate.
- The DNI then has to submit this determination to Congress.
- If the DNI determines that Iran has violated its nuclear agreements, the sanctions on Iran that have been temporarily lifted shall be reinstated.

No More Extensions—Preventing the Interim Deal from Becoming the Final Deal

- The bill would prevent the interim agreement from becoming a virtual final deal by requiring a full snapback of all sanctions relief on November 28, 2014, four days after the extension period runs out, in the absence of a final deal.
- This would allow the president to negotiate while ensuring the Iranians do not use the negotiations as a delaying tactic or a cover for advancing their program.